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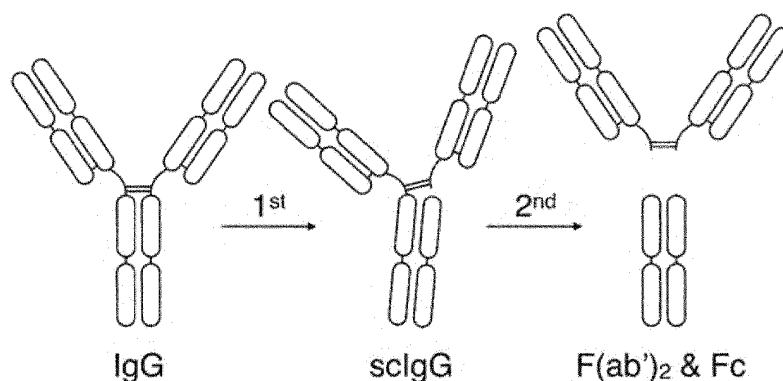
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(54) **Title:** CYSTEINE PROTEASE

FIGURE 9



(57) **Abstract:** The present invention relates to a novel polypeptide which displays IgG cysteine protease activity, and *in vivo* and *ex vivo* uses thereof. Uses of the polypeptide include methods for the prevention or treatment of diseases and conditions mediated by IgG, and methods for the analysis of IgG and *in vitro* generation of F(ab')₂ fragments.